Community Impact Assessment: growing research area at CUTR

In recent years, FHWA has initiated efforts to refocus transportation professionals and enhance their expertise on how to address community impact issues. A user-friendly primer, "Community Impact Assessment: A Quick Reference for Transportation," was published in September 1996 on how to conduct such an assessment to address the impacts of proposed transportation actions on communities, neighborhoods, and people. CUTR has engaged in three community impact assessment (CIA) research projects with FDOT and FHWA since 1997: an evaluation of the CIA primer and its use in the U.S., development and presentation of a national CIA workshop, and development of a more extensive CIA handbook.

CIA evaluation
On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Office of Environment and Planning, in cooperation with the Environmental Management Office of the Florida Department of Transportation, CUTR conducted a national Community Impact Assessment Evaluation. The 67-question evaluation instrument, distributed to metropolitan planning organizations and state departments of transportation throughout the U.S., requested information on practitioners' knowledge and use of CIA techniques, particularly those addressed in the primer, to determine training and other community impact assessment needs.

A total of 65 responses was received from 46 state transportation agencies or DOTs and 19 metropolitan planning organizations, for a response rate of 44 percent. More than two-thirds of the respondents indicated that they had a copy of the booklet and found it useful as a "quick reference." Responses indicated that the booklet had made a difference in the way organizations study or address impacts as related to communities, neighbor...

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CUTR assists Transportation and Land Use Study Committee

For the past six months, CUTR has been working closely with the Transportation and Land Use Study Committee (TLUSC), which was created by the 1998 Florida Legislature to